MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 NOVEMBER 1982

Iran-Iraq War

Military Activities -- A military communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces began the second stage of their current operation early on 3 November and gained control of the heights overlooking the Al-Amarah region on the Iraqi plain east of the Tigris River. Tehran radio cited an Iranian military officer as saying that 'Ali al-Gharbi and Al-Amarah are "completely" within Iranian firing range. Several important Iraqi industrial and oil installations located east of the Tigris River are now within range of Iranian artillery and Iranian forces overlook the Al-Amarah-Baghdad road, the radio noted. More than 2,600 Iraqis were killed and more than 1,450 were captured during the 3 November operations, another military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed. More than 70 were killed during an infiltration operation into Iraqi territory, an additional Tehran communique broadcast by the radio stated.

A military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio claimed that Iraqi forces "destroyed" the new Iranian offensive. An earlier INA report asserted that the Iraqi Air Force "paralyzed" the movement of the Iranian forces when they tried to cross the border in the Maysan Governorate. An Iraqi military source denied claims made in a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio that five Iraqi aircraft had been shot down, INA reported. Another Baghdad military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed that at least 2,027 Iranians were killed during the 3 November operations.

Musavi Comments -- In an interview with Tehran radio following a 3 November Cabinet meeting, Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi alleged that although the Iraqi regime pretended in the past few months that its forces had withdrawn from Iranian territory, the current operations have stopped that propaganda. The prime minister stated that the Iranian Government policy is clear and has been announced many times. He added that "the destiny of peace" will be determined on the battlefronts, asserting that "this offensive will have extensive political repercussions in the region."

Hammadi Comments -- Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi told the Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN that the failure of the recent Iranian offensive is a practical end to the war, INA reported. The foreign minister said that there will be no official end to the war at present but that he expects it to evolve into border skirmishes and limited actions. He stressed that while the mediation efforts did not bear fruit, they did not fail, INA added.

Lebanon

Druze-Christian Clashes -- The government will take measures to halt the deteriorating situation in the Ash-Shuf mountain area, Beirut radio reported. Voice of Lebanon radio said 23 people were killed in the Druze-Christian clashes on 2-3 November and warned that "repugnant practices" have been committed. While the leftist clandestine Voice of Lebanon radio accused Phalangist militias of heightening tension by deploying in Druze villages, the rightist clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the Phalangist Lebanese Forces have brought calm to the area by expelling "dogmatic socialist elements." According to Jerusalem radio, the IDF again intervened to separate the combatants and imposed a curfew on two villages. Meanwhile, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt returned to Beirut from Europe to participate in efforts to stop the violence, Beirut radio noted.

Relations With PLO, Israel -- Arab diplomatic sources in Kuwait described President Amin al-Jumayyil's recent meeting with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf as "positive and successful," KUNA reported. Al-Jumayyil reportedly told Khalaf that Israeli forces must withdraw from Lebanon before the Syrians and Palestinians. However, the Phalangist paper AL-AMAL has called on Lebanon to adopt a positive approach toward Israel, according to Jerusalem radio.

Relations With Libya -- Foreign Minister Elie Salim has recalled Lebanon's ambassador from Libya because of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's statement in Beijing criticizing the election of President al-Jumayyil, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Reaction to Emergency Powers Request -- The leadership of the Phalangist-dominated Lebanese Front unanimously decided that the Chamber of Deputies' vote of confidence in the government must be separated from the vote on the government's request for exceptional powers, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Some other political blocs have adopted a similar stance, according to Beirut radio.

PLO

The new Voice of PLO radio in Baghdad stressed the determination of West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians to resist the Israeli occupation and said their decision will continue to be: "No peace with the Zionist occupiers, no peace with the invaders." The PLO Higher Military Council is currently studying plans to expand guerrilla operations inside the occupied territories, according to the UAE paper AL-KHALIJ.

GCC

GCC foreign ministers meeting in Manama discussed important political, economic, defense and security issues in preparation for the GCC summit scheduled to begin there on 9 November, WAKH reported. Speaking at the end of the 3-day foreign ministers conference, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah told a press conference that a GCC economic agreement will come into force on 1 December and indicated that the GCC will take important steps in the security and defense sphere, WAKH noted. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN revealed that the ministers approved a formula for establishing a GCC unified military council, according to QNA. AL-WATAN also reported that the ministers agreed to omit some of the disputed articles from the recently deferred GCC security agreement and to submit a new draft to the GCC summit.

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'THOUSANDS OF ARMED SIKHS' ARRIVE IN AMRITSAR

BK031550 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 3 Nov 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] Amritsar, India, Nov. 3 (AFP) -- Thousands of armed Sikhs, chanting "raj karega khalsa" -- the pure (Sikh) will rule -- have descended on this holy city for the start tomorrow of a "holy war" to back their demand for autonomy for the Punjab.

Carrying swords, spears and licensed guns, an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 Sikhs have already arrived here, an administration source said today. More were seen coming from adjoining villages in buses, tractors and specially chartered vehicles.

Sikh leaders had announced last month that if Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's federal government did not accept their autonomy demand by tomorrow, they would enter a new phase of the agitation with a call for a "holy war."

Several rounds of discussions between a five-member Sikh team and Mrs. Gandhi's ministers have apparently failed to come to an agreement.

The Sikh leaders were meeting here late tonight in a last minute bid to find avenues to common ground with the federal government. There appears to be disagreement among the Sikh leaders on the launching of the "holy war" tomorrow. A Sikh source said two of the five members were in favour of postponing the new programme, but others were pressing for it. A spokesman for the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, which is leading the present agitation, said the talks had been inconclusive but the leaders would meet again later today.

Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who heads the militant Sikhs, was in favour of intensifying action and forcing the federal administration to accept Sikh demands. Mr Bhindranwale, 35, told Agence France Press that he would not accept anything less than autonomy for the Punjar although the government would keep control of defence, currency, communications, railways and foreign affairs. Mr Bhindranwale has shot up as the undisputed leader of the militants and is guarded by gun-totting Sikhs. He personally carries a revolver with a sling of cartridges hanging on this waist.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman in the Punjab capital, Chandigarh, said the adminstration was ready to meet any Sikh threat tomorrow. A 5,000 to 6,000-strong force of armed police with para-military backup was deployed today in this city of 500,000 people. Some were carrying sten guns.

City residents said they were apprehensive about tomorrow. Parents have decided not to send their children to school.

"Everyone is keeping their fingers crossed. It is quite likely that the Sikh leaders will come up with something that may defuse the situation. It is equally likely that they may announce the "holy war," said a Sikh expert.

HOME MINISTER COMMENTS ON DEMANDS OF AKALI DAL

BK040921 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Nov 82

[Text] The home minister announced in the Lok Sabha today that certain areas of agreement have been identified in respect of some demands of the Akali Dal. The other demands concerned various other states, therefore, consultations have to be held with the Punjab government and other concerned governments as well as the representatives of different communities before a decision can be taken. Sethi said this process of consultation has been initiated and it is likely that it will take some more time.

The home minister said amidst cheers that in taking any decision, the government cannot ignore the overall interest of national unity, integrity and welfare of all sections of the people. He said the government hopes that representatives of Akali Dal will look at their problems in the larger context. He repeated the government's invitation to them to come for further discussions. He said they should create the right atmosphere for this by calling off or suspending their agitation. Sethi hoped that in the present circumstances nothing will be done which may escalate tension or give rise to violence and suffering. He appealed to all parties to extend their cooperation.

Expressing the government's deep distress over the situation in Punjab, the home minister recalled that the prime minister and senior Cabinet members have met delegations of Akalis several times. The prime minister has indicated to them that practically all their religious demands could be accepted subject to details being worked out, but this could not be finalized because of their other demands.

The home minister's statement was welcomed by several members. Some of them demanded a discussion. The speaker said he will consider it. Sethi will make a statement in the Rajya Sabha this afternoon on the Punjab situation.

RAO ON HAQ'S VISIT, KASHMIR, OTHER ISSUES

Lok Sabha Discussion

BK031619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] The external affairs minister has described the recent visit of the Pakistan president as significant. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Narasimha Rao said the visit has enabled both sides to reiterate at the highest level the desire to maintain contacts. Replying to a brief discussion initiated by Dr Karan Singh, independent, he said the decision to set up a joint commission was a step forward. It would provide an agency for the normalization and strengthening of relations which has so far been taking place in a slow and haphazard manner.

About Kashmir, he said we do not agree about the existence of any dispute on this matter. The only question is that of Pakistan's illegal occupation of parts of our territory. Narasimha Rao declared that no one had at any time any right to cut Jammu and Kashmir into two. It is true that the illegal occupation had continued for a long time. But, he pointed out, it takes two for a settlement. India is trying to prepare the ground for a situation when a final settlement becomes possible according to the Simla agreement. He pointed out that Pakistan has been raising the issue in wrong forums. The appropriate forum is bilateral.

Replying to questions, Narasimha Rao denied that India had at any time said that the line of control will be a permanent border.

Earlier, Dr Karan Singh said that an honorable settlement would be welcomed, but there should be no letup in defense preparedness. He complained that a wrong map of Kashmir had been published in an American journal. He wanted the government to prevent the wrong depiction of India's boundaries.

Narasimha Rao said that the journal concerned had published an apology. He pointed out that whenever any journal had published a wrong map in the past it had apologized.

House Committee Briefing

BK031633 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] The acquisition of arms by Pakistan was briefly raised at Mrs Gandhi's meeting with Gen Ziaul Haq in Delhi on Monday. This was revealed by the external affairs minister at the Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting in New Delhi today. He said the question of missing defense personnel was also discussed. Asked by members whether the Kashmir issue came up, Rao replied that General Zia had himself said in Bangkok that the matter was not discussed. One of the issues touched upon at the ministerial level talks was the question of the return of hijackers of an Indian airlines plane.

The Consultative Committee also discussed the Palestinian question, the situation in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq conflict. Narashimha Rao said there must be a political settlement of the Palestinian question and he is hopeful about it though it might take a long time.

In reply to a question, the minister affirmed that the efforts of the Nonaligned Movement in this regard had not only strengthened the cause of the Palestinian people, but also the movement and promoted unity among the Arabs.

He pointed out that in the Iraq-Iran conflict, it is the nonaligned initiative that still remains in (?place). Initiatives by the organizations of the Islamic countries had been rejected and the [words indistinct] mission was virtually still there.

COMMENTARIES HAIL GANDHI'S TALKS WITH ZIAUL HAQ

Could Be Turning Point

BK021515 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Not much was expected by either side from the first ever visit of Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq (?lasting) only for 3 1/2 hours, and yet what has been achieved gives hope of a positive move forward in the efforts of the two countries to normalize relations and to seek a measure of understanding and friendship which has defied India and Pakistan all these 35 years.

The three-paragraph joint statement issued at the end of his talks with Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi is important in what it has said and also in what it has left unsaid. A few points made in the joint statement are that the two leaders have agreed to the establishment of a joint commission and, accordingly, instructions have been issued to the negotiators of the two sides for a rapid conclusion of modalities and formalities in this regard. In persuance of this political direction, the officials of the two countries will meet in New Delhi in December 1982. And, finally, they have also been directed to consider the Pakistan draft of a nonaggression pact and the Indian draft of a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

This clearly implies that the Indo-Pakistan dialogue, which seemed to have been caught bogged down in bureaucratic quibbling about each other's positions, has been given a definite political direction to move forward. In that sense it is a step forward, however suspicious the two sides might have been all these years of each other's motivation. Neither side ventured to characterize the talks between the two leaders as having established a personal rapport between them, nor would it have been realistic to expect that in 1 hour they have all together, along with their foreign ministers, would have provided them the opportunity to remove the cobwebs of distrust and suspicion of the past so many years.

But the very fact that the joint statement described the atmosphere in which the talks were held as of cordiality is indicative of the desire on both sides to make a fresh beginning in building bridges unaffected by past prejudices. This feeling was further substantiated when General Ziaul Haq told newsmen at the time of his departure at Delhi airport that he had excellent talks and they could not have been better. God willing, it will pave the way for better relations between India and Pakistan. To those remarks that they had an excellent meeting and heart-to-heart talks, Mrs Gandhi added that the talks were cordial as well. Without quibbling (?about) words used by the two leaders to describe their first ever formal meeting, it is obvious that the two leaders had expected much less and were able to achieve much more. And it is in that sense what has been left unsaid in the joint press statement is equally significant.

The joint statement makes only a casual mention of bilateral, regional and global issues reviewed. The spokesmen of the two sides were unable to spell out the positions the two leaders took on bilateral issues like Kashmir or a regional issue like Afghanistan or a global issue like the general deterioration in the international security environment. As is well known, the two countries have different perceptions of all these and such other issues and it would have been futile and perhaps counterproductive if these differences were allowed to be aired following the meeting which was more to find ways of working together despite any such differences. And, in that sense, it is as well that the two sides decided to keep mum on any of these issues, particularly the Kashmir issue, although the Pakistan press had given wide publicity to speculative reports that General Ziaul Haq was visiting Delhi with a definite formula to resolve it. So what little has been made known of the talks between the two leaders, it is not even certain that Kashmir was referred to in any great detail.

After the meeting, the effort of both sides, including the two leaders, was to emphasize the positive side of this meeting and an expression of hope of further fruitful meetings between them when President Ziaul Haq again visits New Delhi at the time of the nonaligned smmit meeting in March next year.

While having said all this, one cannot overlook the fact that Pakistan is seeking a limited nonaggression pact at a time when it has not only revived its almost defunct defense treaty with the United States, but has taken full advantage of the U.S. assessment that, with Soviet troops moving into Afghanistan, Pakistan has become a frontline state in its confrontation with Moscow and needed modernization and reequipment of its armed forces. They have, in any case, expanded considerably since the 1971 conflict. Whatever may have been of the American motivation on embarking upon this course, it would be wrong to overlook the past experience that whenever Pakistan has been rearmed, it has turned its gun against India.

The fact of the three wars between the two countries in 3 decades can neither be washed away nor overlooked in negotiating a new relationship of peace and friendship between the two countries. It is in that sense that India is keen on what is negotiated when there is a desire on both sides. And a possibility of negotiating a closer friendship is not just a mere no-war pact, but a more comprehensive treaty which has the makings of abiding friendship, cooperation and peace between the two neighbors. This one, single development has broken the ice between the two countries. There had been no such visit of heads of government of either country since Bhutto's visit in 1972 which resulted in the signing of the Simla agreement.

With this visit, General Ziaul Haq has washed away the trauma that Pakistan presumably suffered in 1971 and India in its turn has opened its doors for a healthier relationship between the two neighbors. In that sense the minisummit in New Delhi on Monday may well go down in history as the turning point in the relations between the two neighbors.

Put Things in Perspective

BK020720 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 1 Nov 82

["Spotlight" by Manohar Takru, special correspondent of All India Radio]

[Text] In the zigzag relationship between India and Pakistan over the past 35 years, never have a mere couple of hours talks been as productive as they were today when Gen Ziaul Haq stopped over in New Delhi for a meeting with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi. The most tangible outcome was, of course, their decision to establish an India-Pakistan joint commission. Officials have been charged with the task of going about finalizing the modalities and formalities of the commission rapidly and for doing so they are to meet next month in New Delhi. They will also examine the draft of the two documents exchanged between Islamabad and New Delhi: one, the Pakistani draft of a nonaggression pact and, two, the Indian draft of a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

One might ask what is so significant about these decisions? After all, the establishment of a joint commission was agreed upon, though only in principle, as far back as January-February last when it was first mooted by the then foreign minister of Pakistan, Agha Shahi, in New Delhi. The question itself carries the answer, which is that already 10 solid months have passed by since then but the commission is nowhere in sight despite the agreement in principle. Offficials of the two countries have been meeting but their valiant and persistent efforts did not lead to much worth writing home about. Today's agreement at the summit level will give their efforts a much-needed push forward and hopefully there should soon be a joint commission between India and Pakistan. One might perhaps add a word here about the function of a joint commission before proceeding to discuss the all too important documents about a no-war pact and a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Joint commissions are institutionalized agencies comprising of the representatives of two countries and they meet periodically to go in depth into various matters. The commissions can be at any level and may be headed either by a minister or a senior official. As for the commission with Pakistan, it would be a safe guess that it will be headed by a minister. India has joint commissions with a number of countries and so has Pakistan. But, no two joint commissions, either Pakistan's or India's are similar. Their ambits vary and while some joint commissions concern themselves with only a few matters, some others cover a much larger area. It is, of course, next month's meeting which will discuss these matters and decide the composition, the scope and other parameters regarding the functioning of the proposed joint commission.

On the nonaggression pact, Pakistan has sent a draft to India. India itself has sent a draft of the proposed treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation to Pakistan. Both have been in the air and have been discussed, commented upon and analyzed in India and Pakistan. Today's summit-level decision asked the officials of the two countries to consider the drafts obviously with a view to come to a conclusion quickly. The two governments have been considering them for several months, but have not yet come to grips with them in any substantial manner.

There was also, at one stage, a setback when in the midst of these strenuous efforts to improve relations on the part of both the countries Pakistan thought it fit to raise the Kashmir bogey in a world forum. Though that is now all over, the process got retarded and the talks were once again resumed only in August. Today's New Delhi meeting might be said to have put things in the right perspective. The two drafts will be examined by the officials next month with the mandate from their chiefs that both are equally deserving of attention. It is quite natural that some of the points in them might overlap. So much the better because at least these would not need further examination since both the sides proposed them. In any case, the objective of both the documents is more or less the same, namely, to promote friendship and cooperation between the two neighbors.

What can be said in favor of the Indian proposal, however, is that it is more positive, emphasizing as it does peace, friendship and cooperation as against the Islamabad draft which is only for a pact that we do not go to war with each other. A treaty is a much more comprehensive document while a pact at best tackles issues piecemeal. Much can be said in favor of both concepts in the totality of the overall relationship between India and Pakistan, but one is tempted to stress that if it is in the interest of India -- as it certainly is -- to have a durable, if not permanent, relationship of friendship with Pakistan, so is it in the interest of Pakistan as well. The two countries have had a decade of peace despite many ups and downs in their relationship. What is statesmanship if not to move ahead boldly and aim at strengthening friendship and promoting cooperation rather than to stand merely for absence of hostilities? India is keen on friendship with Pakistan not for some emotional reasons, but a hard-headed assessment of the facts of life. No less a person than Mrs Gandhi herself has repeatedly said that India wants a strong and stable Pakistan. There cannot be a better awareness of that firm and sincere belief than the treaty that she offered to that country. One would hope that the officials, when they consider the two drafts next month, will take adequate notice of these factors. The fact that Gen Ziaul Haq and Mrs Gandhi are agreed that both the treaty and the no-war pact drafts should be considered is a good angury and certainly a move forward.

Besides these matters of bilateral interests, the Pakistan president and Mrs Gandhi reviewed the international situation and it is obvious that much of their attention must have been devoted to the development in this region. Not much was given out officially about this part of their talks, but the extremely tight program of the meeting could hardly have left them with any time for going beyond a reiteration of their known stand on various issues.

General Zia's all too brief visit was very businesslike. That it yielded the results it did is partly also due to the discussions that have been going at the offical level both in New Delhi and Islamabad over the past several months. He was happy with his meeting with Mrs Gandhi and this was obvious from the look of satisfaction on his face at the time of his departure from Delhi.

RAO INTERVIEWED ON VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES

PM021517 Tunis L'ACTION in French 28 Oct 82 p 10

[Interview with External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao by Nefissa Ben Said in Tunis -- date not given]

[Text] [Question] Minister, you met with the Palestinian Resistance leader in the framework of a nonaligned delegation. Can you give us further details on the purpose of that initiative?

[Answer] Our meeting with the Palestinian Resistance leader is an initiative shared by all the nonaligned countries.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat received us on Sunday [24 October] and our meeting lasted more than 2 hours. We thus had lengthy discussions with him and drew entirely satisfactory conclusions from them. The delegates present [first name illegible] Indian, Yugoslav and Cuban) had the same impression. Thus we regard that meeting as positive and fruitful.

[Question] Are not the different systems in the nonaligned countries and the disagreements between them from time to time likely to seriously threaten their movement's very existence?

[Answer] The nonaligned countries do not have completely identical systems. These systems are sometimes even very different. The Nonaligned Movement includes several countries and therefore many leanings.

There may be variations but that certainly does not mean there are disagreements. Moreover, there are two kinds of problem: bilateral and collateral problems. But they are small problems. They are very minor problems.

As regards fundamental options -- peace, disarmament, the world economic order -- there are no differing views among the nonaligned countries. We pursue essentially the same objectives.

[Question] Could you tell us about the main points which will be submitted to the forthcoming Delhi summit?

[Answer] As regards the nonaligned summit which is to be held in Delhi, contacts and discussions are underway in order to draw up the subjects for the forthcoming meeting. The major current problems will, of course, be discussed: armaments, peace, detente, North-South dialogue, economic matters....And we ardently hope to achieve positive results.

[Question] There is increasing talk about the normalization of relations between India and Pakistan. If that happens what impact will that normalization have on that part of the world?

[Answer] The Nonaligned Movement aims to establish good relations not only among the countries in the movement, but with all the countries in the world.

Bilateral relations have already been opened since the Simla agreement was signed in 1972, which laid down a program for normalization between India and Pakistan.

For the time being we are going to discuss the possibilities of a nonaggression pact. That pact was suggested by Pakistan.

Moreover a treaty of friendship and good-neighborly relations has been proposed, this time by India, and the creation of a joint commission with a view to making efforts to normalize relations between the two countries.

[Question] Minister, what is the state of bilateral relations between India and Tunisia?

[Answer] Tunisian-Indian relations are excellent. We are soon going to have the pleasure and honor of receiving Mrs Wassila Bourguiba. We are awaiting that visit with great interest and that will be the best stimulus for our relations. Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali is also convinced that that friendly visit will further consolidate a lasting friendship.

TALKS WITH FRANCE ON ENRICHED URANIUM CONTINUE

BK040929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Nov 82

[Text] The creation of an atomic energy regulatory board is under consideration of the government. The prime minister told the Rajya Sabha in a written answer today that the main function of the proposed board will be to carry out regulatory and safety functions envisaged for the center under the Atomic Energy Act of 1962.

In another reply, the prime minister said that India has not approached China for the supply of enriched uranium. She said discussions are continuing with France for the supply of enriched uranium for Tarapur atomic power station within the framework of the 1963 cooperation agreement between India and the United States and safeguards agreement of 1971.

GANDHI CALLS ON PEOPLE TO FIGHT DIVISIVE FORCES

BK311337 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Oct 82

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the people to fight obscurantism and divisive forces to strengthen the unity of the conntry. Mrs Gandhi was speaking at a function to celebrate the birth anniversary of Maharishi Balmiki in Delhi today. She decried the efforts made by disgruntled elements to create dissension among the people on the issues of regionalism, casteism and language. She urged the people to isolate and expose these forces in the larger interests of stability and progress of the country.

Earlier, addressing a large gathering at Madras Airport on her way back to New Delhi, Mrs Gandhi appealed to the people to keep up their spirit of patriotism and pride for the nation. She said unless we strengthen the base of our country which rests on the poorest, the weakest, the small farmers and others, we cannot really see the country strong. Without the solid foundation, big units by themselves cannot help.

Mr Gandhi reiterated that the states must look at their problems in the larger interest of the country.

Talking to newsmen at Tirupati, Mrs Gandhi underlined the need for permanent measures to tackle drought. She said farmers have to think in terms of dry land farming taking the help of agricultural institutions.

BRIEFS

GOODS TO USSR -- India will supply to the Soviet Union wire ropes, diamonds and handloom products worth over 60 million rupees. Two contracts were signed at the Indian international trade fair on 1 November between the Soviet trade organizations and Indian firms. [text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Nov 82]

POLAND, GDR TRADE PROTOCOLS -- India's trade turnover with Poland and the German Democratic Republic is to be stepped up substantially. The annual trade protocol signed at Warsaw envisages a trade turnover of over 3,470 million rupees with Poland in the coming year. This will be 26 percent more than this year. India's exports to Poland will include agricultural products, textiles and engineering goods. Another trade protocol signed with the German Democratic Republic envisages a 16 percent growth of Indian exports next year. The total turnover with the GDR will be about 3,000 million rupees. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Oct 82 BK]

NEPAL

FORMER MINISTER SEES POLITICAL 'ALTERNATIVE'

BK021243 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 24 Oct 82 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 23 -- A viable alternative to the "corrupt coterie" led by the Prime Minister, Mr Surya Bahadur Thapa, is slowly emerging on the Nepal's political scene, and the day of Mr Thapa's fall is not very far.

This is what Mr Pashupati Shumshere Rana, a vocal member of the Rashtriya Panchayat, believes and wants others to believe.

Mr Rana, who was a minister in the Cabinet of Dr Giri and later of Mr Bista, feels that a group of competent and enlightened people is asserting in the Rashtriya Panchayat, to highlight the people's problems.

Mr Rana, whose father had been Nepal's ambassador to India, is in town on a private visit. He came to India to see his children who are studying in Dehra Dun and his mother who lives in Bangalore.

In an informal talk with ENS [EXPRESS News Service] here on Friday, Mr Rana emphasised what he thought was major gains by the people in Nepal during the past one year -- for example the press freedom enactment.

Till last year, the proceedings of the Nepal's Rashtriya Panchayat (parliament) were virtually barred from the knowledge of the public and the press could not report the proceedings freely. This is a great victory for the democratic forces, he says.

But the greatest impediment to Nepal's development is now the "coterie" of some bureaucrats, politicians and business men led by Mr Thara according to Mr Rana.

There are four issues on which the opposition group is trying to focus attention in the Panchayat. First, the growing corruption at all levels of the government functioning.

"This has resulted into an extremely inefficient administration incapable of carrying out development schemes," says Mr Rana and adds," we can provide a clean administration and people are responding to our calls."

Secondly, the opposition is trying to build support towards further democratisation of the system. Another issue which was taken up by the group is freedom of the press.

Perhaps the most important and pressing issue is the food crisis. Because of the callous and short-sighted policies of the government, Nepal is now facing a major food crisis which threatens to worsen, Mr Rana says.'

Mr Rana does not oppose the king or the rule of the king. In fact, he feels that the monarchy should stay for a backward country like Nepal to develop.

Regarding Indo-Nepal relations, Mr Rana says that both countries have taken short-sighted view of the nature and scope of the relations. But the fate of a large number of people in both the countries is related so closely. For example, flood control in north-east India would not be possible without taking into consideration the ecology of Nepal.

He is also criticial of "a section of unscrupulous" businessmen who are indulging in smuggling. He hopes that both India and Nepal will seriously evaluate their relations and work for their improvement.

BRIEFS

MINISTER TO PRC, DPRK -- Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supply Balaram Ghartinagar left on 29 October for an approximately 2-week visit to the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Finance Minister Yadav Prashad Pant will look after the Industry, Commerce and Supply Ministry until the return of the industry, commerce and supply minister. [Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 29 Oct 82 BK]

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE: ASSASSINATION PLOT AMOUNTS TO COUP

BK031125 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] President Jayewardene told the government parliamentary group yesterday that therewere plans being formulated by a group in the Sri Lanka Freedom Party after the results were announced in the presidential election on October the 21st to assassinate him and a few other Cabinet ministers, Anura Bandaranaike, the armed services chiefs and others. They also planned to do away with the Constitution and imprison Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike. In other words, Jayewardene pointed out, on the strength of their victory, they planned to establish a military government tearing up all constitutional procedures as they announced at election meetings. He added that their actions, which amount to a coup, are now being investigated by the police.

Referring to the proposed referendum to extend the term of office of the present Parliament, President Jayewardene said that a referendum is, in fact, an election where the voter is asked to indicate clearly yes or no. He said that more than 1/3 of the total registered voters, that is, 2.7 million will have to vote yes to the question asked whether the term of the present Parliament should be extended by another 6 years to carry through. If however, no one voted no and 2.6 million voted yes, yet the referendum will be defeated as it did not muster the minimum number of 2.7 million votes.

MINISTER VIEWS REFERENDUM ON PARLIAMENT TERM

BK011113 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Nov 82

[Text] A referendum, according to Minister of Trade and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali, is a democratic exercise giving people the opportunity to express their views on anything. A right to decide whether to extend or not the life of the present Parliament by another 6 years rests with the people and a referendum will seek their mandate.

The trade minister emphasized that those who opposed this process is [as heard], in fact, opposing the democratic rights of the people. The minister was speaking after declaring open a free milk distribution center for children at (Katunavillapura), Ratmalana, this morning. The center will provide a glass of milk each for 300 children 6 days a week.

Speaking at length on the referendum, Athulathmudali said that an amendment to the Constitution will be introduced in accordance with the Supreme Court judgment on the subject. We said that the decision to hold a referendum is prompted by the 52.9 percent of the votes obtained by the party in the presidential election. The minister added that this will also strengthen the integrity of the country.

PRIME MINISTER REPORTS ON CABINET SESSION ON WAR

LD032312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi interview after 3 November Cabinet session]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We had a long and [word indistinct] session. Naturally, the first issue discussed in the Cabinet was the victory of our brave fighters on the battlefront. It was discussed as an important and (?destiny-making) event in the war. During the past few months Saddam's regime has pretended that it has withdrawn from all our country's territory [words indistinct] the blow our fighting forces delivered at the enemy in Eyn-e Khosh and other parts of our country and our regaining other large areas, in fact, neutralized all this propaganda.

In view of the scope of the victory which [words indistinct] will have an important effect upon the destiny of the war. The political consequences of this issue should not be ignored. As our forces were preparing themselves for a series of chain operations, and were starting their operations as a prelude for other preparations which they had to carry out, the reactionary countries had [words indistinct]. Also, the peace delegations that came and the letters they sent were to some extent affected by this issue so that, of course, the Islamic Republic Government gave a decisive response to this issue. Government policy on this issue has been clear and has been announced many times. However, once again our [words indistinct] and our brave fighters demonstrate that the destiny of peace will be determined at the powerful hands of our fighters on the battlefronts. Naturally, this offensive will have extensive political repercussions in the region and we should expect them.

COMMUNIQUE NO 4 ON MOHARRAM OPERATION

LD031204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Communique No 4 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O combative umma' of Islam, O martyr-nuturing nation of Iran: Following the start of the victorious Moharram operation which has brought outstanding victories to our Islamic umma' and which has restored more occupied lands to the Islamic homeland, in the early hours of this morning, the self-sacrificing combatants and God-seeking offspring of this Muslim people started the second stage of Operation Moharram codenamed "O Zaynab, God's greetings be upon her." By attacking the feeble enemy, they once again demonstrated their divine will.

At the beginning of this stage of the operation, the Islamic forces passed through difficult situations and areas such as minefields, took the aggressive enemy by surprise, surrounded the Ba'thist forces from two sides and amazed and struck fear into them. Since last night, the Islamic combatants have killed more than 200 aggressive, Ba'thist, Zionist mercenaries and wounded more than 300. During this stage of the operation, many enemy forces were captured and transferred behind the lines. During this successful operation, more than 40 enemy tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles were destroyed and more than 15 modern tanks and personnel carriers were captured intact by our victorious troops.

During the second stage of the victorious Moharram operation, which is still in progress, the [word indistinct] sector and [words indistinct] posts were freed from the occupation of the blasphemous Saddamist aggressors, and the glorious flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran was raised on the heights in the sector. During this stage of Operation Moharram, our brave troops gained control of the heights in the sector and brought within their firing range the Iraqi plain in the Al-Amarah region.

At present, the defenders of the Islamic revolution, while destroying enemy forces have completely surrounded the Hayfa Battalion of the 42d Armored Brigade of the IV Corps of Iraq and are dealing heavy blows and inflicting heavy losses on the Ba'thist aggressors.

The Islamic combatants are defending the land of the prophet of God -- God's blessings be upon him and his tribe -- on other operational axes and in liberated areas; they are consolidating their positions, evacuating the booty and POW's and burying the bodies of those aggressors killed in the first stage of Operation Moharram. It should be noted that with Islamic compassion and mercy the Islamic combatants have transferred more than 100 wounded Iraqi POW's behind the lines and are treating them.

A full report on the victorious operations of the Islamic forces will be brought to the attention of the ever-present umma', who aid the Islamic combatants on the fronts with their continuous prayers.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

IRAQI TOWNS 'COMPELTELY WITHIN FIRING RANGE'

LD031224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] The Hayfa Battalion for Iraq's 42d Armored Brigade has been completely surrounded by the Islamic combatants and has not the slightest hope of escape. An IRNA report dispatched form Qa'em base at 1200 today reports that two other battalions of the Iraqi forces that did not have the strength to confront the Islamic fighters were smashed during the second stage of Operation Moharram and left behind more than 400 dead and wounded.

As a result of the second state of Operation Moharram carried out northwest of 'Eyn-e Khosh in the area between the (Boyrak) River and the international border since last night, with the Islamic combatants having complete superiority, at the moment, the Islamic combatants have complete control of the Al-Amarah-Baghdad road. This important supply road of the enemy is under the direct observation and within firing range of our forces. Following the success of these operations, the enemy has lost its supply communication south of Mandali and Al-Amarah and it will face great difficulties in the future.

As one of the military commanders of the region pointed out to the IRNA correspondent concerning Iraqi towns on the other side of the border: Although these towns and those of 'Ali al-Gharbi and Al-Amarah are completely within our firing range, nevertheless, in obedience to the teachings of the Koran and Islam, we will refrain absolutely from opening fire on these residential areas. We await new orders from the commander in chief.

It should be added that, in this territory, several important industrial complexes and oil installations of the enemy, situated east of the Tigris, are completely within the firing range of Iranian artillery.

OVER 1,000 IRAQIS CAPTURED IN NEW OPERATION

LD031230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] According to latest reports received from the Karbala' base, headquarters for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, until noon today the number of the enemy forces captured by the forces of Islam since the beginning of the Moharram operation has passed the 1,000 mark.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,103

LD031802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,103 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots: Parallel with the proud and epic-making Moharram operations, which are tantamount to a golden page in the magnificent annals of Islam's combatants in this imposed war, our other mighty combatants on the rest of the battlefronts of good against evil heroically continue to wage their relentless antiblasphemy battle and inflict deadly blows on the declining body of the Saddamist army, thereby bringing the day of the death and destruction of the enemy closer. For your information, esteemed Islamic nation, we hereby give you the results of their battle:

Five aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces this afternoon were shot down by our fast-flying combat aircraft and air defense units in the Moharram operational zone.

In the Piranshahr region, Islam's mighty combatants, in a 2-hour artillery exchange, succeeded in setting ablaze and destroying one ammunition dump and one building of the Iraqi forces. As a result of the flames and smoke of the first, the evacuation of enemy dead and wounded continued for many hours. Several squad trenches and foxholes of the Saddamist forces also were destroyed in that region.

On the Meymak front yesterday, the intensity of artillery exchanges was greater than on other fronts in the operational zones in the west.

In the course of the exchange of fire on the Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin fronts, heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist forces.

At 2230 last night the declining Saddamist mercenaries desperately launched an attack on one of the fronts in the Muslim ibn 'Aqil operational zone. However, our victorious Islamic brothers inflicted heavy casualties and losses on the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors, repulsing their offensive and forcing the Iraqi forces to retreat and flee.

At 0520 this morning, the defeated Saddamist mercenaries once again embarked on an offensive on yet another front of the Muslim ibn 'Aqil operational zones. However, by opening continuous and heavy artillery fire on the enemy units, Islam's victorious and vigilant combatants stemmed their advance and halted their movements. During these operations, the Iraqi forces, after suffering heavy losses and casualties, were at last forced to retreat and were pinned down in their former positions.

On the Khorramshahr front, our gendarmerie combatants opened retaliatory fire on enemy positions on the opposite bank of the Arvand Rud, inflicting losses and casualties on the enemy.

Yesterday, air attacks by the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries on the border towns in the country's western and southern regions were repulsed, thanks to our air defense units' fire and tactical measures by the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Raiding enemy aircraft then vanished from the scene.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON 'SUCCESSFUL' OPERATIONS

LD031834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Communique of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the Moharram operations, the heroic and brave Iranian umma', the heroic combatants of Islam, in the course of their successful operations last night succeeded in liberating more than 300 km of our Islamic homeland's territory which was under the occupation and invasion of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist forces for about 25 months. During these successful operations, to date 1,450 Iraqi POW's have been transferred behind the front; among them a number of colonels and majors of the aggressive Iraqi Army could be seen.

In the course of these operations, two brigade bases and one tactical headquarters of the Iraqi 10th Armored Division were completely smashed and destroyed. More than 97 tanks and personnel carriers of the Ba'thist enemy were destroyed and 45 other tanks of the aggressive forces were seized intact by the combatants of Islam as booty. In the course of the successful Moharram operations, 120 enemy forces' vehicles were destroyed and 90 others fell into the hands of the Islamic corps intact.

The counted toll of enemy dead and wounded in the course of the heroic offensive by the combatants of the army of God has reached 2,600 to date. Fuller reports on the operations subsequently will be brought to your attention.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

NAJAH HEADQUARTERS COMMUNIQUE ON BATTLES IN IRAQ

LD031830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Communique issued by the Najaf headquarters of the joint operations conducted by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Simultaneously with the magnificent operations carried out by the epic-making defenders of the glorious Islamic revolution in the Moharram operational zone and coinciding with the occupation of the den of espionage, Islam's combatants last night succeeded in repulsing the numerous offensives by the Saddamist mercenary forces in the Muslim ibn 'Aqil operational zone. They destroyed 23 enemy tanks, 3 vehicles, 4 mortars and an armored personnel carrier. They also captured intact a number of Malyutka rockets belonging to the Saddamist mercenaries.

In the course of repulsing these enemy offensives, more than 400 Ba'thist mercenaries were killed and another group were captured by Islam's combatants. Also, during infiltration operations inside Iraqi territory, Islam combatants succeeded in destroying a number of enemy positions and trenches and killed more than 70 infidel Ba'thists.

[Signed] Najaf headquarters of joint operations by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRNA CITES WAR SPOILS, DESTRUCTION OF RABUT

GF031655 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] Qaem Hq, Nov. 3, IRNA -- A number of the Brazilian-made tanks, which were recently delivered to Iraq, were seen among the 30 Iraqi tanks seized by the Islamic combatants during the second stage of massive Moharram offensive.

Also, a great many light weapons and all equipment of one armoured brigade, which was stationed inside Iran for a long time, were seized undamaged by the Iranian forces.

Reports reaching here from the liberated village of Rabut, some 10 kms from the western border, said that the village is completely devastated and apart from some ruined walls, there is hardly any sign of the farming lands or anything else.

CAPTURED IRAQI COMMENTS ON MOHARRAM OFFENSIVE

GF031748 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] Ilam, Nov. 3, IRNA -- The 1st Company of 1st Battalion of 423rd Brigade of the 10th Iraqi Division was completely crushed and a large amount of the enemy's war equipment were seized by the Islamic combatants during the successful Operation Moharram.

This company's commander, Lieutenant Salim al-Jabbar Kazim captured by the Iranian forces on Tuesday, told IRNA that the Iraqi troops were aware of the Iranian offensive and the commander of 423rd Brigade and 10th Division of Iraq had come to the region warning their forces about his attack three days earlier. He added that the Iraqi 24th Mechanized Brigade and 28th Armoured Brigade had been dispatched to the expected operation region from Basra. But, said this commander, the Iranian offensive was launched so surprisingly that the Iraqis did not even find any time to explode the incendiary bombs which they had planted in some 50-litre barrels in front of their bunkers [words indistinct] frontlines.

COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES LAUNCHING OF OPERATION

LD031838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] The following communique has been issued by the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, joint operations center of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on the launching of the first stage of the Martyr Shahri-Kandi operations.

In His exalted name. The first stage of the operations codenamed Martyr Shahri-Kandi, who was one of the committed Sunni clergymen martyred by the mercenaries of world arrogance, started this morning. In these operations, the combatants of Islam on the Mahabad-Bukan axis managed to capture the heights overlooking the villages of (Dorman) and Hajji Ali Kandi and also the (Kuhsalan) heights.

While retreating and fleeing, the mercenary enemy destroyed his own equipment and left behind a considerable quantity of ammunition.

These operations were successfully carried out and our forces suffered no losses at all. In these operations, the enemy suffered more than 15 dead and a large number of wounded.

[Signed] The Hamzeh Headquarters, joint operations center of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

U.S. EMBASSY TAKEOVER ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED

Prime Minister's Message

LD030954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] On the anniversary of the occupation of the American den of espionage by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, a message has been issued by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. This message refers to the struggle of the great Iranian nation against imperialism, saying:

The occupation of the archsatan's den of espionage by the children of the Muslim Iranian umma' has undoubtedly opened a new chapter in the anti-imperialist struggles of the oppressed nations, which will benefit history and future generations. To honor the anniversary of this heroic action is to stress the continuation of the policy of "neither East nor West," especially the negation of the values imposed as a result of American domination, and the continuation of the struggle against powerful and plundering nations. On that day, the holy anger of the nation, based upon the guidelines of the great leaders of the revolution, was expressed by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy through the occupation of the den of corruption and espionage of criminal America which in its anger with the Islamic revolution and the Muslim people had started to hatch plots and to marshall its pawns.

The brave action of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy revealed the true features of the compromising elements and gradually exposed those who were dependent on certain groups and who were enamored by East or West. It also prepared a firm ground for the emergence of the Hezbollah umma', the true owners of the Islamic revolution. Without the emergence of such a movement, which was called a revolution greater than the first revolution by the imam, the corrupting American influence would undoubtedly not have been eradicated from the country and the true and hypocritical features of the liberals would not have been revealed.

Another part of this message says: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran honors this great day which is one of the days of God, which is the day of the disgrace of the archsatan and which revealed to the Muslim and oppressed nations that the arrogant American power is nothing but an empty drum.

In memory of the esteemed martyrs of Islam, especially the wronged martyr Ayatollah Behesti who defended this move in the Revolution Council and the Council of Experts, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will always, by following the guidelines of the leader of the oppressed people of the world, the imam of the umma', move in the direction of the continuation of the struggle against world arrogance, led by world-devouring America, and will remain faithful to this course.

Foreign Ministry Communique

LD032348 Tehran IRNA in English 2020 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 3, IRNA -- In a communique published here on the eve of the third anniversary of the seizures of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said that the move had served as an object lesson for "all oppressed masses caught in the sanguinary claws of the United Staes" and had taught them that "it is impossible to obliterate despotism, colonialism, and internal injustice without a violent confrontation with external colonialism..."

The communique said also that the documents found in the former compounds of the embassy had proved that the U.S. diplomatic corps and those of the "oppressive world powers" were merely a cover for conducting espionage activities and plotting against the "interests of the oppressed nations".

It said by trusting in God, the Iranian nation would continue its revolutionary move for "annihilating world oppression and putting an end to the political, economical and cultural domination of imperialism and Zionism upon the Muslim and oppressed nations, and will show the great satan and its flunkeys that there is no place for corruptive bases and for dens of hypocrisy in an arena which is permeated with the spirit of self-abnegation and love of martyrdom".

VELAYATI CONGRATULATES ALGERIAN COUNTERPART

LD022336 Tehran IRNA in English 2014 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA -- Foreign Minister Velayati has cabled a congratulatory message to his Algerian counterpart, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, on the occasion of the 22th anniversary of the victorious Algerian revolution falling on November 1.

Wishing success for the government and nation of Algeria in achieving further progress in their struggle against global oppression as well as international Zionism, Dr. Velayati, in his message called for Muslim unity under the banner of "There is no God but one". This necessity, stressed the message, is essential because world oppressors and expansionists particularly the U.S. and the Zionist regime have augmented their attacks against the Islamic umma'.

The present discord and dispersion among the Muslims, which the message pointed out stemmed from the corruption of pseudo-Islamic governments and their dependency on the world-devouring U.S., has caused the oppressed Palestinian and Lebanese nations be smashed and furthermore occupied by Zionist soldiers thus leading to the annihilation of their generation.

However, the message went on to say, it is regrettable that these pseudo-Islamic governments while pretending support for the Palestinian cause, are continuing their oppressive rule and are approving, through their treacherous reticence, of the acts of a handful of dishonourable terrorists (Begin and U.S. backers). More regrettable was that these same governments disagreed with the revolutionary proposal of the Islamic Republic for the expulsion of the Zionist regime from the UN General Assembly, said the message, adding that they (the reactionary governments) even declared their readiness to recognise the Al-Quds [Jerusalem] occupying regime and live with it in peace.

Today, Velayati stressed in another part of his message, the Palestinian cause has fallen a victim to political conspiracies and this, he added, was a great danger threatening the world of Islam and the fate of the oppressed Palestinian nation. If a solution is not sought for this problem, "tomorrow it will be too late".

Foreign Minister Velayati reiterated Iran's determination to thwart the conspiracies of the West and East as well as those of their agents namely the reactionaries of the region.

The Iranian nation will also decisively increase its attacks against the interests of the U.S. and Zionism in any part of the world until the annihilation of Zionism and the liberation of the holy Al-Quds. It is obvious that all the freedom-seeking Islamic and non-aligned governments would shoulder heavy responsibilities to this end.

In conclusion, Dr. Velayati expressed hope that the two Muslim nations of Iran and Algeria which have sustained heavy financial and human losses for the achievement of Islamic ideals will continue their struggle against global arrogance and that mutual relations between the two countries in all political, economic, cultural and military fields will be further expanded.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH PRC ENVOY

GF021615 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2 IRNA -- Issues of mutual interests were discussed in the meeting of the People's Republic of China's ambassador to Tehran, Mr. Zhuang Yan and Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad Azizi Tuesday afternoon.

The Chinese ambassador at the meeting referring to mutual needs of the two nations in economic and industrial fields stressed the necessity of expanding relations between Iran and China.

Azizi outlined the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed the hope that the two countries' relations would be further expanded.

JAPANESE DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS 30 OCT

LD301218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the economic and international under secretary at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, leading a delegation of officials from the Japanese Foreign and Foreign Trade Ministries, arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by the international and economic affairs under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country.

The under secretary to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, in an interview given to newsmen on his arrival in Tehran, said that the aim of the visit to Tehran by the Japanese political and economic delegation is to expand political and economic relations between the two countries. During its 2 or 3 days in Iran, the delegation will meet and talk with our country's responsible officials.

Meetings With Officials

LD301744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Oct 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the visiting Japanese economic delegation, headed by the Japanese Foreign Ministry under secretary for economic and international affairs, met and conferred this afternoon with our country's commerce minister.

During the talks, the delegation head said the purpose of the delegation's visit to Iran is to exchange information and to resolve the existing commercial and economic problems between the two countries, thus paving the way for an expansion of relations. He said Iran's Islamic revolution has achieved total stability, not only military stability, but political and economic stability.

During this meeting, our country's commerce minister stressed that the existing problems between the two countries sould be resolved and expressed the hope that effective steps will be taken in the interests of the people of Iran and Japan.

The Japanese delegation, which arrived in Tehran today, also met this afternoon with the Foreign Ministry under secretary for economic and international affairs.

The two sides reviewed developments in economic relations and each side's views on certain important international topics. The Japanese delegation leader said his visit to Iran is being made within the framework of a good will mission with the intention of improving and expanding mutual relations and of explaining to the Iranian officials Japanese viewpoints concerning economic and political issues.

In reply, the Foreign Ministry under secretary for economic and international affairs also expressed the hope that the talks the Japanese delegation is to hold in Tehran will contribute positively to our mutual relations.

Talks With Gharazi

LD011126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 82

[Text] The visiting Japanese Foreign Ministry under secretary and his delegation met and conferred this morning with Petroleum Minister Gharazi and Iranian oil and petrochemical officials at the Petroleum Ministry. The meeting, also attended by the Iranian ambassador to Japan, discussed Iran-Japan economic relations and the incomplete Iran-Japan petrochemical project.

KYODO Report

OW020805 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran Nov 2 KYODO -- Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi expressed jitters over the long-stalled Iranian-Japanese petrochemical project during talks with senior Japanese officials Monday.

Gharazi indicated strong dissatisfaction with Japanese inaction and called for Japanese Government help to break the deadlock in talks between the partners in the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Company (IJPC) over the project's future, Japanese officials said.

Gharazi was also quoted as telling the Japanese side that Iran has spent a huge amount of money on the joint undertaking since it started before the Iranian Islamic revolution of 1979. Despite the investment, the project remains stalled, he was quoted as saying.

The Japanese Government mission, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Nobuo Matsunaga, reserved commitments, the officials said. The Japanese indicated they would await the outcome of talks continuing at the private level on resumption of work on the petrochemical complex at Bandar Khomeyni.

Gharazi asked what the Japanese Government could do to help speed the project, the officials said.

Matsunaga sidestepped the question, however, telling the Iranians that the mission was here not to discuss individual problems, they said. The high-level Japanese Government mission, the first since the Iranian revolution, arrived here from an European tour Saturday. It will return home next Saturday.

In the Japanese Government's view, the resumption of work on the plant is primarily a problem to be settled by Mitsui and Co. and other Japanese companies involved. A team of Mitsui engineers was due to arrive here Tuesday to try to pave the way for resumption of work.

The joint undertaking, now 85 percent complete, has been twice suspended in the wake of the Iranian revolution and the Iran-Iraq war. Late last September, the Japanese and Iranian partners agreed to start preparatory work for resumption of the project within a month. They also agreed to continue talks on how to finance additional costs to carry out the project.

3 November Departure

LD031440 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 2, IRNA -- The Japanese deputy foreign minister and his accompanying politico-economic delegation left here at noon today.

During his four-day stay here, Nobuo Matsunaga held a number of meetings with Iranian ministers, mainly on economic matters.

The major economic issue between the two countries is the multi-million dollar joint Iran-Japan petrochemical venture at the Imam Khomeyni port in southern Iran. The Japanese left off construction of the huge plant soon after the Iraqi imposed war and there have been numerous meetings between the two partners in order to resolve their problems and resume the construction of the 85-percent complete plant.

Also in the view of the Japanese, the visit was an effort to settle the present political and economic differences with the officials of the Islamic Republic in better relations in the future.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES GUARDS CORPS COMMANDERS 3 NOV

LD031238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] Brother Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, accompanied by the deputy commander of the Guards Corps, was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and commander in chief of the armed forces. At this meeting, he presented a report on the latest developments in the battlefields and the victorious operations of the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief of the armed forces.

In reply, the imam of the umma' sent a special message to the Islamic combatants.

After this meeting, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said concerning his meeting with the imam of the Umma': The imam graciously told me to send his greetings to all Islamic combatants. They should be told to be of strong heart, to make the aggressors breathe their last and to act with strength because God is their supporter. He said: From here I convey the imam's message to those combatants whom I may not meet in the near future. I hope they will continue their battle with decisiveness.

WEST AZARBAYJAN VILLAGES LIBERATED FROM REBELS

LD031432 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 3 Nov 82

[Text] Urumiyeh, Nov. 3 IRNA -- Four more villages in West Azarbayjan have been purged and liberated from the armed rebels on Tuesday.

The Islamic combatants have launched a mopping up operation last month in Piranshahr-Sar Dasht areas of the province with a considerable success.

During this operation large numbers of counterrevolutionaries were killed or wounded.

The region has been the scene of fighting between Islamic combatants comprising regular and irregular forces and remnants of the shah's regime.

So far a number of cities and villages have been liberated and the people who left their homes because of the presence of the anti-revolutionaries have now come back to start a normal life.

FREE VOICE OF IRAN REPORTS CLASHES, EXECUTIONS

Kordestan, Tehran Actions

GF311809 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 31 Oct 82

[Text] According to a dispatch by our correspondent in Paris, the office of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization has announced in a statement that in clashes occurring in Tehran in October, 150 guards and those responsible for suppression and torture were killed.

According to a report by the Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] the (?Qiiab) base, the largest base in Sanandaj, fell; 50 guards at the base were killed and another 14 were taken prisoner by the Kurdish peshmerga. The KDP report states that a base of the regime in (Rabat) District also was destroyed. A number of citywide operations were carried out in Sanandaj, the capital of the province, during which Dariush (?Kafari), an agent of suppression and torture belonging to the usurping regime of the mullahs, and another agent of the regime known as Esma'il were annihilated.

Clashes in North

GF311807 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 31 Oct 82

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent in the northern parts of our homeland, on 7 October, clashes occurred in Ramsar, Astaneh Ashrafiyeh and around Rasht between the regime's guards and nationalist forces. The commander of the guards from (?Shaf) District was killed on the Fuman-Rasht highway.

Naser Sharifinia, a torturer of the regime in Hamedan, and Mahmud Bakhtiar, his assistant, were annihilated in Hamedan during a clash between nationalist forces and the agents of the usurping and illegal regime of Khomeyni in that city.

13 People Executed

GF011954 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 1 Nov 82

[Text] The antinationalist, so-called Islamic regime has executed another 13 of our compatriots. According to a report by our correspondent, 11 of these people were executed in Arak for opposing the regime of Khomeyni, while the other 2 were accused of smuggling drugs and were killed in Bandar 'Abbas. In Khomeyni's regime the accusation of drug smuggling is usually among those raised against opposition members in order to hide the criminal actions of the mullahs.

ETTELA'AT, published in Tehran, confessed that two of the people executed in Arak were women and another was a young schoolgirl. The guards, on the basis of a decree by Mullah Montazeri, raped this schoolgirl before her execution.

ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATIONS IN KABUL DESCRIBED

GF040820 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Nov 82

[Text] According to reports we have received, Kabul last month witnessed various demonstrations protesting against the presence of Soviet troops. In one of these demonstrations, villagers threatened the No 1 man of the Afghan regime with death for enlisting their sons. The reports said that some thousands of villagers participated in these demonstrations.

While in an attack launched in Baghlan, the Afghan Muslim mujahidin killed 10 members of the ruling party. In response to this offensive operation, the government troops shelled a number of villages. No accurate reports about the casualties caused by this haphazard shelling are yet available.

IRNA NOTES OPPOSITION TO KARMAL PROVINCIAL VISIT

GF311738 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 31 Oct 82

[Text] Mashhad, Oct 31, IRNA -- On the basis of reports reaching here, Afghan mujahideen are said to have increased their attacks on government centres and roads leading into the city. The stepped-up action coincided with the visit of Afghanistan's imposed President Babrak Karmal to the province.

Reports say Muslim revolutionaries destroyed 26 tanks and vehicles in the area of (Bramar) and (Poshton) bridge of Herat as well as killing 300 joint forces troops.

Further reports say that in the district of Arg Kohna of Herat a total of 5 Soviet officers and soldiers were killed. Babrak Karmal was also prevented from speaking at the governor general's office, police department, city hall and Masjid (Mosque) Jaamae.

As a result of guerrilla activity six policemen were killed along with three cabaret dancers, all loyal to Babrak's regime.

BOOK CONFISCATION AT BELGRADE FAIR PROTESTED

LD301132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 82

[Text] Following the theft of several books and pictures on show in the Iranian pavilion at the International Book Fair in Belgrade. Fair officials and Yugoslav security officers confiscated other books at the pavilion as well as photographs and speeches of Imam Khomeyni.

According to an IRNA dispatch from Belgrade, on the third day of the fair, officials, accompanied by several security officers, went to the Iranian pavilion. When the official in charge of the pavilion of the Islamic Republic of Iran refused to hand over the books on show, the Yugoslav officials and security forces began collecting books and pictures left in the pavilion. The books were about U.S. crimes and the struggles of the people of Iran, Palestine, Polisario and Zimbabwe against the superpowers, particularly against the United States and its puppets, the Zionist regime and Iraq.

According to the same report, the Yugoslav security forces had said that the reason behind confiscation of these books is that they are political books and permission had not been obtained to distribute such books to visitors.

This action of the security forces is indicative of a political motive behind the earlier theft of the books from the pavilion of the Islamic Republic of Iran and was a calculated theft.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Belgrade has handed a protest note to the Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs, objecting to this issue and demanding a serious investigation into the problem.